



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

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SOUTH DAKOTA FARM NUMBERS DOWN FROM 2005

SIOUX FALLS, February 2, 2007 -- The number of farms in South Dakota in 2006 is estimated at 31,300, down 100 farms from 2005, according to the South Dakota office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 4 percent from 32,500 farms ten years ago and down 13 percent from 36,000 farms twenty years ago. Total **land in farms** in 2006, at 43.7 million acres, is unchanged from one year ago. South Dakota's 2006 **average farm size** of 1,396 acres is up 4 acres from one year ago.

In 2006 farms with **less than \$250,000 of sales** decreased by 300, while farms with **more than \$250,000 in sales** increased by 200.

LIVESTOCK FARMS: The number of farms raising livestock in South Dakota during 2006 also declined from a year ago. **Operations raising cattle** in 2006 totaled 16,500, a decrease of 500 from 2005. **Operations raising beef cows** totaled 14,500, also a drop of 500 from the year before; while **farms with milk cows** in 2006 numbered 750, down 50 from the year before.

Farms raising hogs in 2006 in South Dakota numbered 1,100, down 100 from the year before; while **operations raising sheep** totaled 2,000, down 100 farms from 2005.

Access this complete report at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/FarmLandIn/2000s/2007/FarmLandIn-02-02-2007.pdf>